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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues Compliance Order to Artesia Mobile Home Park

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has issued an administrative compliance order assessing a \$294,329 civil penalty against the North Park Mobile Home Park, located in Artesia, and Fred Collins, the owner of the mobile home facility, for violations of the state Water Quality Act.

NMED has charged Mr. Collins and North Park Mobile Home Park with violating the state Water Quality Act and implementing regulations by discharging effluent, containing water contaminants, from the sewerage system for the mobile homes into unlined trenches and sewage lagoons without a discharge permit. This unpermitted discharge poses a grave health risk to the inhabitants of the approximately 60 mobile homes at the facility.

“This Environment Department believes in strong enforcement of New Mexico’s environmental laws and regulations,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “Polluters, whether they be huge mines or small operations, must be held accountable at all times, but especially when their actions put the public health at risk.”

The current discharge from the sewerage system at the North Park Mobile Home Park poses a hazard to public health by allowing effluent containing high concentrations of nitrogen compounds to move directly into groundwater through unlined trenches and lagoons. These open trenches and lagoons pose a further public health risk by allowing human exposure to effluent containing pathogens.

“One of our state’s most dangerous sources of pollution is not a factory or a lab, but illegal sewerage systems that pollute the water we drink,” said Secretary Curry. “With actions like this, NMED is sending a message that this has got to stop.”

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In addition to assessing a civil penalty, the order compels Mr. Collins to immediately install fencing to restrict access to all places that effluent is present on his property, submit a discharge permit application to NMED and submit a corrective action plan to NMED to address potential contamination of ground water.

For further information, contact Brent Moore, Asst. General Counsel, NMED at (505) 476-3783, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314

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